



CHAMPIONS CLUB

July-September 2008

Volume 7, Issue 3

Speaking Of Champions ...

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Ready... Aim... Fire-works!



The fireworks actually start popping days before the Fourth of July's annual festivities.

By the time Independence Day arrives, more than 110 of the most-talented 12-year-old tennis standouts will have made enough fireworks on the Champions Club

courts to get America's birthday bash on the right track.

It's the National Open 12s Boys' & Girls' Championships, set for the 20-court Champions Club June 28-July 2.

"As always, many of the most-talented 12 year olds in the country will be showcasing their games in Chattanooga. The tournament will certainly be competitive, no doubt about it," promises tournament director Eric Voges.



**2007 National Open 12s singles champions:
Denise Starr & Tyler Gardiner**

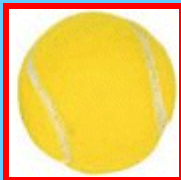
The top four seeds in boys' singles are No. 1 David Crisovan of Florida, No. 2 David Parker of South Carolina, No. 3 Sunay Bhat of Knoxville and No. 4 Jared Donaldson of Rhode Island.

Georgia's Andie Daniell is the girls' top seed, followed by No. 2 Jessie Lynn Paul of North Carolina, No. 3 Sierra Stone of Ohio and No. 4 Taylor Townsend of Georgia.



Where They Come From!!!

22—Tennessee (12 boys, 10 girls); 18—Georgia (7 boys, 11 girls); 16—Florida; 12—South Carolina; 6—North Carolina, Indiana; 5—Michigan, Ohio; 4—Kentucky; 3—New York, New Jersey, Alabama; 2—Arizona, Maryland; 1—Mississippi, Texas, Rhode Island, Illinois.





Boys' No. 1: David Crisovan

David Crisovan was a spoiled, little kid. Or so he says.

However, being pampered by brother Calin (20 years older) and sister Gratzuela (17 years older) turned out to be for the best for the little Floridian.

That's when tennis entered David's life.

"My brother and sister kept spoiling me, buying me anything and everything I wanted," David admits, "so my mom (Georgeta) wanted me to pick something to do, something that would take up my time."

David picked tennis.

"I used to watch a lot of tennis on TV when I was younger," he adds, "and I just liked it."

Now he loves it.

The 4-foot-9 (almost), 11-year-old from Hallandale, Fla., will wear the target on his back as the boys' top seed in the talent-laden National Open 12s Championships to usher in the Fourth of July holiday at the Champions Club. Crisovan, who won't celebrate his 12th birthday until October, is ranked 12th nationally.

And as far as being the target as the No. 1 seed, he doesn't mind.

"It's not pressure at all," David states. "For me, it doesn't matter if I'm No. 1 or not. I just love the game, regardless."

Also, I like people watching me. I like to show off a little, I guess. I've always been that way."

David Crisovan is easy to recognize. You could even call him a "shady" character. He always wears sunglasses while playing and demonstrates a rare one-handed backhand among his arsenal. "It is unusual because I've never played anyone else with a one-handed backhand. I've tried a two-handed, but I could never do it," he explains.

No explanation need. Crisovan's one-hander works just fine.

Besides being No. 12 nationally on the latest Standings List, David is ranked No. 4 in Florida and he and doubles partner Victor Gurevich ended 2007 ranked No. 1. The pair has also captured two national doubles titles this year.

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David Crisovan

Girls' No. 1: Andie Daniell

Growing up on a Georgia farm has been Andie Daniell's life. After all, there are horses, cows, dogs and a tennis court.



Andie Daniell

A tennis court?

"My dad (Ray) played tennis when he was little (playing on the same 120-acre Douglasville, Ga., farm court), but he taught himself to play," says 11-year-old Andie. "Dad then taught my mom (Allie) to play and later Rachel (Andie's 15-year-old sister) started playing."

However, it was Rachel — a top player in Girls' 16s — who inspired little sister Andie to get into the game.

"I guess I wanted to do what she did," Andie recalls, "and I always wanted to beat her." Sometimes she does.

After all, Andie Daniell is ranked No. 1 in the South and 15th nationally in the 12s and will be the top seed for the National Open 12s Championships set over the Independence Day week at the Champions Club.

Nonetheless, the 5-foot Georgian doesn't want to make a big deal of being the No. 1 seed.

"Being the No. 1 seed is simply a position on the draw sheet," she explains. "It's good to have a healthy respect for all players, whether they are seeded or not. I take every opponent seriously."

Daniell is coming off a third-place finish in mid-June's Southern Closed 12s in Columbia, S.C. She was the top seed, but lost a three-set semifinal match to No. 3 Courtney Meredith of Alabama. Meredith then lost a three-set championship clash to North Carolina's Jessie Lynn Paul, who will be the second seed in Chattanooga.

"The pressure of being a seed is to meet expectations of your seeding position," says Andie. "It's important to learn how to

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"If you can react the same way to winning and losing, that's a big accomplishment. That quality is important because it stays with you the rest of your life, and there's going to be a life after tennis that's a lot longer than your tennis life."

— Chris Evert, former world No. 1 women's player

EAVES, OLIVER JUNIOR PLAYERS OF THE MONTH

Christian Eaves

Age/Birthday/Zodiac Sign: 16/April 13/Aries

School/Grade: Lookout Valley High School/Sophomore

Favorite Subject: Science

Favorite Restaurant/Food: Thai Royal/Thai food

Favorite Movie: Lord Of The Rings

Favorite Type of Music/Favorite Music Artist: Rock/Weezer

Hobbies Outside Of Tennis: Movie-making, magic & golf

Who Introduced You To Tennis? My mom (Doreen Blevins)

Began Playing Tennis: 18 months ago

Favorite Shot: One-handed backhand slice

Favorite Pro Players: Roger Federer, Venus Williams

Tennis Racquet You Use: Wilson K-Factor

Best Tennis Memory/Highlight: "It was a two-hour long singles match that I won in two sets (playing in the Champions Club's 2008 Summer Leagues for Men's 3.5)."

April Slatton (Lookout Valley tennis coach on Christian:

"Christian is a remarkable player. He picked up the game very quickly, and his constant improvement has not ceased to amaze me. I wish every player I coached could be like Christian in his positive attitude, willingness to learn and personal drive."



Christian Eaves

Kaitlan Oliver

Age/Birthday/Zodiac Sign: 17/November 16/Scorpio

School/Grade: Sequatchie County High School/Senior

Favorite Subject: American history

Favorite Restaurant/Food: Longhorn/Steak

Favorite Movie: Love And Basketball

Favorite Type of Music/Favorite Musical Artist: Pop/Leona Lewis

Hobbies Outside Of Tennis: Hanging

out with friends

Who Introduced You To Tennis? Chris Mills (Sequatchie County High School tennis coach)

Began Playing Tennis: 2007

Favorite Shot: The backhand

Favorite Pro Players: Andy Roddick, Maria Sharapova

Tennis Racquet You Use: Babolat

Best Tennis Memory/Highlight: "It was getting my first win in high school (the 2007 season)."

Chris Mills (Sequatchie County tennis coach on Kaitlan:

"Kaitlan is a remarkable player that I have enjoyed coaching. From first picking up a racquet two years ago, she has become competitive in one of the toughest high school districts in the state."



Kaitlan Oliver

Cherokees Cruise To No. 1

The 1-2-3 punch of Michael Hewgley, Neal Baldwin and George Pannell was too much for the remaining challengers in April's 2008 Champions Club High School Classic as the trio ignited the Cherokees of McMinn County High School to the Boys' A Division team crown.

Hewgley (No. 1), Baldwin (No. 2) and Pannell (No. 3) won singles and doubles for McMinn County, which accumulated 55 points, besting runner-up University School of Nashville's 47.

Gretchen Rowe (No. 6 singles) was the lone champion, but Chattanooga Christian defended its Girls' A Division title with 56 points to runner-up Walker Valley's 48.

The Soddy-Daisy boys and Rhea County girls claimed team crowns in the B divisions.

2008 Champions Classic Team Scores

Boys A

McMinn County 55

USN 47

Rhea County 46

Ooltewah 43

Cleveland 37

Notre Dame 35

Chatt. Christian 32

Walker Valley 29

Boys B

Soddy-Daisy 20

CSAS 17

Red Bank 11

Grace Academy 6

Girls A

Chatt. Christian 56

Walker Valley 48

Red Bank 43

Cleveland 41

Notre Dame 41

CSAS 39

Ooltewah 33

Siegel 23

Girls B

Rhea County 21

McMinn County 13

Blackman 10

Soddy-Daisy 10

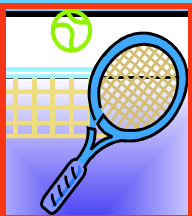
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PRAC/30_257.htm](http://www.chattanooga.gov/PRAC/30_257.htm)

A Champions Tip ...

From Bill Ozaki

USTA Southern Section

Director of Programs & Player Development



When Should You Play Up?



For most players, it is when they have reached the very top of their current age group or the age group in which they are competing. You've won your state qualifier or you've won the Southern Closed or you've won the USTA National Championships — these are examples of being at the top of your age group. There may be other cases when your coach feels it is in your best interest, for development purposes, for you to play up. The decision to play up should always be made in consultation with your personal coach.

With the advent of the points per round ranking system, the opportunity to earn results in the next age group prior to your full participation is available at selected events such as Bullfrog designated tournaments, Southern Level 3 tournaments, USTA National Opens and USTA Level 3 tournaments.

Your results in the upper age group events will also count in your standings in your current age group. Acceptances into the upper age groups are limited to the top players from the lower age group. If your results do not merit your acceptance into the aforementioned events, there are numerous Southern Level 4 events, many of which have large draws, where you can get match play and earn points in your next age division.

Boys' No. 1: Crisovan

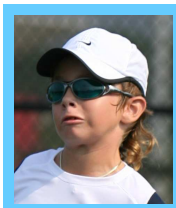
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Furthermore, David played a 14s national event in May and knocked off a sixth seed en route to the main-draw quarterfinals. He played in the 2007 National Open at Champions and dropped a match tie-break decision to eventual runner-up Baker Newman in the quarters.

But David knows he'll have his hands full in Chattanooga. South Carolina's David Parker (No. 13 nationally) first comes to mind.

"When I step on the court to play a match, I expect to win," says David. "If I cannot win, it's OK. But whatever I do I must enjoy myself and behave accordingly."

Besides tennis, David claims other interests are watching soccer and boxing. Why boxing? As he puts it, "I've seen all the Rocky movies."



Girls' No. 1: Daniell

(Continued from Page 2)

win with this pressure, just like it's important to learn how to win as an underdog. I like being the No. 1 seed because dealing with this kind of pressure helps me develop my game.

"Even though I know it's not realistic, I want to win every point. I try to get to every ball and play an aggressive, all-court game. Every win to me is a big win, because everybody's so good."

Andie, a tennis student of Greg Emerson, states that outside of the game she enjoys riding her horse (Cowboy), playing with the dogs, fishing and painting wildlife (Andie's even sold a few of her prints).

Actually, Andie Daniell just loves growing up on a farm ... particularly one with a tennis court, that is.

